

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses, ~~accessing~~ the service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server on a network, comprising:

storage means for storing a plurality of groups, and content group to which some of the information processing apparatuses belong;

reception means for receiving a group request to include a user in one of the plurality of groups, the request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, and for receiving a content request information transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups;

acquisition means for acquiring data coordinated with the content request information;

and

communication means for transmitting the data acquired by said acquisition means simultaneously to those of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server and belonging to a same group.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data is music data, and the content request information includes selection of particular music data.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transmission means for receiving text data transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server and transmitting the text data

to the at least one other information processing apparatus accessing the shared server and
belonging to the same group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A service providing method for a service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses accessing a shared server on a network, comprising:

a storage controlling step of controlling a plurality of groups, and content ~~so that a group to which some of the information processing apparatuses belong is stored;~~

a reception step of receiving a group request to include a user in one of the plurality of groups, the request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, and for receiving a content request ~~information~~ transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups;

an acquisition step of acquiring data coordinated with the content request ~~information;~~
and

a communication step of transmitting the data acquired by the acquisition step simultaneously to those of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server and belonging to the same group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium on which a computer-readable program for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses accessing a shared server on a network is stored, the program comprising:

a storage controlling step of controlling a plurality of groups, and content ~~so that a group to which some of the information processing apparatuses belong is stored;~~

a reception step of receiving a group request to include a user in one of the plurality of groups, the request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, and for receiving a

content request information transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses
belonging to one of the plurality of groups;

an acquisition step of acquiring data coordinated with the content request information;
and

a communication step of transmitting the data acquired by the acquisition step
simultaneously to those of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server
and belonging to a same group.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for accessing a
service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a
network, together with other information processing apparatuses ~~accessing a shared server on~~
~~the same network and enjoying the services of the service providing apparatus~~, comprising:

inputting means for inputting access information for accessing the service providing
apparatus to select one of a plurality of groups;

display control means for controlling display of contents of the services transmitted
from the service providing apparatus;

requesting means for selecting a predetermined service from among the services and
requesting the service providing apparatus for transmission of the selected service to said
information processing apparatus belonging to one of the plurality of groups and the other
information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server belonging to the same group;

reception means for receiving data transmitted from the service providing apparatus to
the information processing apparatuses belonging the same group; and

reproduction means for reproducing the data.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the services are table information of the data to be provided from the service providing apparatus, and the data is music data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for accessing a service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses ~~accessing a shared server on the same network and enjoying the services of the service providing apparatus~~, comprising:

an inputting step of inputting access information for accessing the service providing apparatus to select one of a plurality of groups;

a display controlling step of controlling display of contents of the services transmitted from the service providing apparatus;

a requesting step of selecting a predetermined service from among the services and requesting the service providing apparatus for transmission of the selected service to said information processing apparatus belonging to one of the plurality of groups and the other information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server belonging to the same group;

a reception step of receiving data transmitted from the service providing apparatus to the information processing apparatuses belonging to the same group; and

a reproduction step of reproducing the data.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium on which a computer-readable program for causing an information processing apparatus to access a service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server, which provides services on a network, together with other information processing apparatuses ~~accessing a shared server on the same~~

~~network and enjoy the services of the service providing apparatus is stored~~, the program comprising:

an inputting step of inputting access information for accessing the service providing apparatus to select one of a plurality of groups;

a display controlling step of controlling display of contents of the services transmitted from the service providing apparatus;

a requesting step of selecting a predetermined service from among the services and requesting the service providing apparatus for transmission of the selected service to said information processing apparatus belonging to one of the plurality of groups and the other information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server belonging to the same group;

a reception step of receiving data transmitted from the service providing apparatus to the information processing apparatus belonging to the same group; and

a reproduction step of reproducing the data.